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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 have been amended to clarify the present invention. New claims 13-15 have been added.

Claim 3, 6 and 9 were amended to recite that torque-transmitting tool interfaces of the nut and bolt have different diameters. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as filed at page 9, lines 1-7. Support for new claims 13-15 is found in the specification as filed at page 8, lines 7-9. Support for new claims 16-18 is found in the specification as filed at page 9, lines 1-7.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO9308071 in view of Dzus (2,511,051). The examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the fastening device of WO9308071 so that the nut and bolt, each has a tool interface in the threaded cylinders in view of Dzus in order to facilitate proper alignment between the bolt and the nut thus minimizing cross-threading before tighten the fastening device and to allow quick release and by fastening/turning the bolt and nut simultaneously and to allow quick and easy removal without bolt and nut turning in unison. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 12 have been amended to recite that the torque-transmitting tool interface of the bolt extends substantially the length of the bolt. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as filed at page 4, lines 14-16. Neither WO9308071 nor Dzus suggest or teach a torque-transmitting tool interface that extends substantially the length of a bolt as claimed in claims 1, 4, 7 and 12. Therefore, the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 4, 7 and 12 should be withdrawn.

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Claims 3, 6, 9 and 10 were rejected as claim 1, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since claims 3, 6, 9 and 10 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of claims 1, 4, and 7, respectively, as amended, they are felt to overcome the rejection in the same manner as amended claims 1, 4, and 7.

Claims 2, 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO9308071 in view of Dzus. The examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the fastening device of WO9308071 in view of Dzus so that the tool interfaces are of the same size, since such a modification would have been a matter of design choice, and such a modification would involve a mere change in weight and cost of manufacturing. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1. Claim 5 is dependent on claim 4. Claim 8 is dependent on claim 7. Therefore, claims 2, 5 and 8 are patentable over WO9308071 in view of Dzus in the same manner as amended claims 1, 4, and 7, respectively.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO9308071 in view of Kirrish. The examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the fastening device of WO9308071 so that the tool interface means faces the outside of the crank handle, since this involves rearranging the nut and bolt to face a different direction and it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 11 is dependent on claim 7. Claim 7 was amended to recite that the torque-transmitting tool interface of the bolt extends substantially the length of the bolt. Neither WO9308071 nor Kirrish suggest or teach a torque-transmitting tool interface that extends substantially the length of a bolt. Therefore, the obviousness rejection of claim 11 should be withdrawn.

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This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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